

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 559
By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Senior Master Sergeant Steven E. Little on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have devoted much of their lives to the service of their nation as a member of the armed forces of the United States and who have performed with great valor and uncommon devotion to duty; and

WHEREAS, Senior Master Sergeant Steven E. Little is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for almost 25 years in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, a native of Kingsport, Tennessee, Senior Master Sergeant Steven Little is a graduate of Sullivan Central High School; he enlisted in the United States Air Force in April, 1981, after working locally for several years at Little and Adams General Contractors; and

WHEREAS, upon completing basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Senior Master Sergeant Little was sent to Jet Engine Maintenance technical school at Chanute Air Force Base, Rantoul, Illinois, in June, 1981; and

WHEREAS, Senior Master Sergeant Little's first duty assignment was with the 443rd Field Maintenance Squadron, Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, as a jet engine specialist responsible for maintaining C-141B and C-5B aircraft; during his tenure at Altus, Sergeant Little filled numerous positions within the Jet Engine Maintenance career field, including service as the Auxiliary Power Unit Shop's swing shift supervisor; and

WHEREAS, in August, 1989, he was reassigned to the 8th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Kunsan Air Force Base, South Korea, where he served as engine crew chief on the F100-110 powered F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft; during this tour of duty there, he was personally chosen by engineers from General Electric to assist an engine inspection team in determining the cause of mishaps that resulted in two aircraft crashes; and

WHEREAS, reassigned to the 51st Tactical Fighter Squadron, Osan Air Force Base, South Korea, in October, 1990, Senior Master Sergeant Little was named swing shift supervisor for the engine shop and was responsible for maintaining the Pratt and Whitney F100-220 engine for the F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft, as well as overseeing the receiving and shipment of the TF-34 engines installed on A-10 "Warthog" aircraft; and

WHEREAS, returning stateside in November, 1991, Senior Master Sergeant Steven Little was assigned to the 56th Maintenance Squadron, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, to serve as assistant engine crew chief for the F100-110, F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft; during this assignment he would assist in the transfer of MacDill's F-16 aircraft to various active duty and Air National Guard units; and

WHEREAS, earning the respect and admiration of his peers and superiors alike, in November 1993, Sergeant Little was hand-picked by HQ Air Mobility Command to serve in the newly formed 19th Maintenance Squadron's C141B Bluesuiter Maintenance unit at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia; his duties there included performing isochronal inspections and field level repairs on the C-141B aircraft undergoing Programmed Depot Maintenance; and

WHEREAS, awarded the prestigious and coveted Air Mobility Command Certified Mechanic Rating, Senior Master Sergeant Steven Little filled several positions within the Bluesuiter Maintenance flight unit including: Flight Chief, Production Superintendent, Specialist Production Supervisor, Jet Engine Section Chief and Hazardous Waste Monitor for the engine shop, Steering Committee Chairman, Feedback Program Monitor, and Squadron Fund President; and

WHEREAS, Senior Master Sergeant Steven E. Little assumed his present duties as the Command Fighter Engine Functional Manager for all reserve F-16 Fighting Falcon units, as well as engine functional manager for the A-10 TF-34, in November of 1999; and

WHEREAS, Senior Master Sergeant Little serves as the Senior Propulsion Manager responsible for all F-16 and A-10 engines and overseeing all engine assets and engine-related programs for the Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Senior Master Sergeant Steven Little holds a Master of Science degree in Logistics Management from Georgia College & State University and a Bachelor of Science

degree in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical College; he has an Associate Degree in Applied Sciences, Aircraft Propulsion Systems Technology from the Community College of the Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Little is licensed as a certified FAA Powerplant mechanic and is a graduate of the NCO Preparatory Course, NCO Leadership School, and NCO and SNCO Academy correspondence and in-residence courses; and

WHEREAS, among the numerous honors that Senior Master Sergeant Little has received during his career are the Air Force Meritorious Service Award with one Oak Leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters, the Air Force Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf cluster, the Outstanding Unit Award with one Oak Leaf cluster, and the Humanitarian Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Senior Master Sergeant Little exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; he enjoys the loving companionship of his wife, Micha Kim Little, and is the proud father of daughter Rachel; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable military career, Senior Master Sergeant Little has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his superiors, his peers, and those under his command; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Senior Master Sergeant Steven E. Little, U.S. Air Force, our profound thanks for his courageous service to his nation in both times of war and of peace and our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.